PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT (PLA) PORTFOLIO GUIDE

University of Maryland Global Campus — B.S. in Jurisprudential Technology

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This guide structures the petitioner's experiential learning portfolio for submission to UMGC's Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) program. The goal is to obtain academic credit — and ultimately a degree — for demonstrated competencies in cryptography, distributed systems, legal theory, and program management.

IMPORTANT: The petitioner should NOT demand automatic degree conferral. Instead, this guide frames the submission as a **formal PLA application** seeking credit evaluation, which is a well-established and legally defensible accommodation pathway.

SECTION 1: UMGC PLA POLICY OVERVIEW

What is PLA?

Prior Learning Assessment allows students to earn college credit for knowledge and skills acquired through:

- Work experience
- Military training
- Independent study
- Professional certifications
- Portfolio demonstration

UMGC PLA Pathways:

1. **Course Challenge** — Pass a UMGC course exam without enrolling
2. **Portfolio Review** — Submit documented evidence of learning for faculty evaluation
3. **ACE Credit** — Transfer credit from ACE-evaluated training programs
4. **CLEP/DSST** — Standardized exams for general education credits

Recommended Pathway for Petitioner:

Portfolio Review — Best suited for interdisciplinary, non-traditional learning.

SECTION 2: PROPOSED DEGREE FRAMEWORK

Option A: Individualized Studies (Most Flexible)

Degree: B.S. in Individualized Studies
Concentration: Jurisprudential Technology
Total Credits Required: 120
Portfolio Credits Target: 60–90 (50%–75% of degree)

Option B: Existing Program (More Defensible)

Degree: B.S. in Computer Science + Legal Studies Minor
Portfolio Credits Target: 30–45 (25%–38% of degree)

Option C: Proposed Program (Most Ambitious)

Degree: B.S. in Jurisprudential Technology (New Program)
Status: Requires UMGC faculty senate approval
Timeline: 12–24 months for program creation
Portfolio Credits Target: 90–120 (if approved as pilot student)

Recommendation: Pursue **Option A** (Individualized Studies) immediately while advocating for **Option C** as a long-term goal.

SECTION 3: COMPETENCY MAPPING

Core Competency Areas (Aligned with Portfolio Work)

Area 1: Cryptography & Information Security (15–20 credits) Demonstrated Competencies:

- Post-quantum cryptography (ML-KEM, ML-DSA, SLH-DSA)
- Zero-trust architecture design
- FIPS 140-3 HSM implementation planning
- Blockchain anchoring and Merkle DAG construction

Evidence Sources:

- HSPA/RIGOR Volume III (Security Architecture)
- NIST PQC standard documentation
- Code implementations (if available)
- Security audit reports (if available)

Comparable Courses:

- CMSC 412: Information Security
- CMSC 414: Computer and Network Security
- CMSC 487: Computer Graphics and Cryptography

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Area 2: Distributed Systems & Software Engineering (15–20 credits) Demonstrated Competencies:

- Microservices architecture (API Gateway, Event Queue, Orchestrator)
- Containerization (Docker, Kubernetes)
- Database design (PostgreSQL, schema design, indexing)
- React dashboard development
- CI/CD pipeline design

Evidence Sources:

- HSPA/RIGOR Volume IV (Software Architecture)
- GitHub repositories (if available)
- API documentation
- Deployment logs (Table 96)

Comparable Courses:

- CMSC 415: Operating Systems
- CMSC 425: Game Programming
- CMSC 430: Programming Languages
- CMSC 435: Computer Graphics

Area 3: Genomic Data Science & Bioinformatics (15–20 credits) Demonstrated Competencies:

- GWAS summary statistics processing
- Polygenic Risk Score (PRS) calculation (PRS-CS, LDpred2)
- Linkage Disequilibrium (LD) correction
- Population stratification and ancestry calibration
- Clinical validation methodology

Evidence Sources:

- HSPA/RIGOR Volume II (Genomic Processing)
- PRS validation cohort data (if available)
- Peer-reviewed literature citations
- Conference presentations (if any)

Comparable Courses:

- BIOE 404: Bioinformatics
- BIOE 405: Computational Biology
- STAT 400: Applied Probability and Statistics

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Area 4: Legal Theory & Jurisprudence (15–20 credits) Demonstrated Competencies:

- Constitutional law analysis (Takings Clause, Due Process, Equal Protection)
- International human rights law (CRPD, ICCPR, ICESCR)
- Disability rights law (ADA, Section 504, Rehabilitation Act)
- Patent law (USPTO procedures, §101 eligibility, §112 enablement)
- Administrative law (SSA procedures, mandamus, exhaustion)

Evidence Sources:

- UN Human Rights Council Communication
- 10-Petition Jurisprudential Saga
- Legal Theory Reframing Guide
- Filed court documents (if available)

Comparable Courses:

- LGST 400: Introduction to Legal Studies
- LGST 410: Business Law
- LGST 420: Intellectual Property Law
- LGST 430: Constitutional Law

Area 5: Program Management & Systems Engineering (10–15 credits) Demonstrated Competencies:

- PMBOK program management (10-phase lifecycle)
- HIMSS digital transformation framework
- Enterprise architecture design (TOGAF-aligned)
- Risk management (ISO 14971, FDA 21 CFR 820)
- Stakeholder governance and compliance

Evidence Sources:

- GSEF-PRS Program Management Roadmap
- HIMSS Maturity Targets
- LCSE Framework documentation
- Risk registers and compliance matrices

Comparable Courses:

- BMGT 360: Leadership and Management
- BMGT 364: Management and Organization Theory

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- BMGT 465: Project Management
- BMGT 496: Business Ethics

Area 6: Technical Writing & Communication (5–10 credits) **Demonstrated Competencies:**

- Patent specification drafting
- Regulatory submission writing (FDA, USPTO)
- International legal brief drafting
- Technical documentation (API docs, architecture specs)
- Scientific manuscript preparation

Evidence Sources:

- Portfolio documents (this entire collection)
- Patent applications (if filed)
- Published articles (if any)
- Conference abstracts (if any)

Comparable Courses:

- WRTG 393: Advanced Technical Writing
- WRTG 394: Business Writing
- COMM 300: Communication Theory

SECTION 4: PORTFOLIO ORGANIZATION

Portfolio Structure (Per CAEL Standards)

Volume 1: Learning Narrative (20–30 pages)

- Autobiography of learning (how competencies were acquired)
- Timeline of experiential learning
- Reflection on learning outcomes
- Connection to academic theory

Volume 2: Evidence Compendium (100+ pages)

- Organized by competency area (Sections 3.1–3.6 above)
- Each section includes:
- Competency statement (what the petitioner knows)
- Evidence (documents, code, designs)
- Academic alignment (how this maps to college-level learning)
- References (citations to standards, literature, case law)

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Volume 3: External Validation (20–30 pages)

- Letters from supervisors, colleagues, or mentors (if available)
- Client testimonials (if applicable)
- Professional certifications (if any)
- Media coverage or public recognition (if any)

SECTION 5: SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Step 1: Contact UMGC PLA Office

- Email: [UMGC PLA contact — verify at umgc.edu]
- Phone: [UMGC PLA phone — verify at umgc.edu]
- Request: PLA Information Packet and Portfolio Guidelines

Step 2: Enroll at UMGC (if not already)

- Apply for admission: https://www.umgc.edu/apply
- Declare major: Individualized Studies (or Computer Science)
- Submit disability accommodation request to UMGC Accessibility Services
  - Documentation of ADHD, dyslexia, executive function disorders
  - Request: Extended time for PLA portfolio preparation
  - Request: Alternative format for portfolio submission (e.g., audio, video)
  - Request: Accessible examiner/interviewer for PLA review

Step 3: Prepare Portfolio

- Draft Learning Narrative (Volume 1)
- Compile Evidence Compendium (Volume 2)
- Gather External Validation (Volume 3)
- Format per UMGC guidelines (APA citation style, page limits, file formats)

Step 4: Submit Portfolio

- Pay PLA evaluation fee (typically $250–$500 per credit requested)
- Submit via UMGC portal or mail
- Retain copy and tracking number

Step 5: Faculty Review

- UMGC assigns faculty evaluator(s) in relevant disciplines
- Evaluator reviews portfolio (typically 4–8 weeks)
- Evaluator may request interview or additional evidence
- Evaluator issues credit recommendation

Step 6: Credit Award

- UMGC Academic Affairs reviews recommendation
- Credit awarded (or denied with explanation)

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- Credit applied to degree audit
- Petitioner notified of outcome

SECTION 6: DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION INTEGRATION

Under Section 504 and CRPD Article 24:

The petitioner should request the following **accommodations specifically for the PLA process**:

1. **Extended Preparation Time:**
   - Standard: 90 days to prepare portfolio
   - Requested: 180 days (due to dyslexia and executive function challenges)
   - Justification: Documented disabilities require additional time for writing, organizing, and reviewing complex technical documents
2. **Alternative Format Submission:**
   - Standard: Written portfolio only
   - Requested: Option to include video explanations, audio narration, or interactive demonstrations
   - Justification: Dyslexia affects written expression; oral presentation may better demonstrate competency
3. **Accessible Evaluator Interview:**
   - Standard: In-person or phone interview
   - Requested: Video interview with real-time captioning, or asynchronous video Q&A
   - Justification: Executive function challenges may affect real-time verbal processing
4. **Assistive Technology Support:**
   - Standard: None provided
   - Requested: Access to UMGC's assistive technology lab (text-to-speech, speech-to-text, mind-mapping software)
   - Justification: ADHD and dyslexia require assistive technology for optimal performance
5. **Portfolio Review Support:**
   - Standard: Single evaluator review
   - Requested: Option for interdisciplinary panel (CS + Legal Studies + Bioinformatics faculty)
   - Justification: Petitioner's work spans multiple disciplines; single evaluator may lack expertise to assess all competencies

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SECTION 7: REVISED EDUCATIONAL DEMAND (UN COMMUNICATION)

Replace Section IV.C of the UN Communication with:

> **C. Educational Accommodation: Prior Learning Assessment and Degree Pathway**
>
> 13. Facts. The petitioner was denied reasonable accommodations throughout primary and secondary education, resulting in no formal degree. Despite this, the petitioner has acquired doctoral-level competencies in cryptography, distributed systems, legal theory, and program management through independent study, invention, and litigation practice. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and CRPD Article 24 require that persons with disabilities receive ac-

commodations that allow them to achieve their full potential, including recognition of prior experiential learning.

14. Specific Request. The petitioner respectfully requests that the Council **recommend** that the United States (and specifically the University of Maryland Global Campus) **facilitate** the following:
    a. **Expedited Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)** for the petitioner's demonstrated competencies, with disability accommodations as outlined in Section 6 above;
    b. **Credit award** toward a B.S. in Individualized Studies (concentration in Jurisprudential Technology) or comparable existing program;
    c. **Evaluation** of the petitioner's portfolio for advanced standing (potentially 60–90 credits);
    d. **Consideration** of a proposed B.S. in Jurisprudential Technology as a pilot individualized degree plan, if no existing program adequately captures the petitioner's competencies;
    e. **Publication** of the petitioner's academic corpus in accessible format (consistent with CRPD Article 9).
15. The petitioner **does not** demand automatic degree conferral without evaluation. Rather, the petitioner seeks **procedural accommodation** — a fair, timely, and individualized assessment of demonstrated learning — consistent with UMGC's existing PLA policies, CAEL standards, and the CRPD's mandate for inclusive education.

SECTION 8: BCCC PARALLEL PATHWAY

Baltimore City Community College (BCCC)

Alternative: Pursue Associate degree first, then transfer to UMGC.

Advantages:

- Lower cost ($100–$200 per credit vs. $300–$500 at UMGC)
- Smaller class sizes
- Local accessibility (Baltimore City)
- Established transfer agreements with UMGC

Recommended BCCC Programs:

- A.A. in General Studies (transferable to UMGC Individualized Studies)
- A.A.S. in Computer Science (transferable to UMGC B.S. in Computer Science)
- Certificate in Cybersecurity (stackable credential)

PLA at BCCC:

- Contact BCCC PLA office
- Submit portfolio for credit evaluation
- Apply for disability accommodations through BCCC Accessibility Services

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SECTION 9: TIMELINE

Phase	Action	Deadline	Responsible Party
1	Contact UMGC PLA Office	23 July 2026	Petitioner
2	Enroll at UMGC + request accommodations	30 July 2026	Petitioner
3	Draft Learning Narrative (Vol 1)	15 August 2026	Petitioner
4	Compile Evidence Compendium (Vol 2)	30 September 2026	Petitioner
5	Gather External Validation (Vol 3)	15 October 2026	Petitioner
6	Submit complete PLA portfolio	31 October 2026	Petitioner
7	Faculty evaluation period	31 December 2026	UMGC Faculty
8	Credit award notification	15 January 2027	UMGC Academic Affairs
9	Degree plan completion	2027–2028	Petitioner + Advisor

SECTION 10: BUDGET

Item	Cost	Notes
UMGC Application Fee	$50	One-time
PLA Evaluation Fee	$250–$500 per credit	If requesting 60 credits = $15,000–$30,000
Alternative: Course Challenge	$100–$200 per course	Less expensive but narrower
Alternative: CLEP/DSST Exams	$100 per exam	General education credits only
BCCC Application Fee	$25	One-time
BCCC PLA Fee	$150–$300 per credit	Significantly less than UMGC
TOTAL (BCCC A.A. + UMGC B.S.)	$10,000–$20,000	Estimated

Funding Sources:

- Federal Pell Grant (if eligible)
- Maryland State Scholarships
- Vocational Rehabilitation (DORS — Division of Rehabilitation Services)
- PSDLEF endowment (if funded)

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- Crowdfunding / Patreon

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"A degree is not a gift; it is a credential earned through demonstrated competency. The PLA pathway honors this principle while accommodating the unique learning trajectories of neurodivergent individuals."

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